



Massachusetts Council on
Compulsive Gambling
We understand the problem. We can help.

December 23, 2013

Dear Mr. Timothy Carroll,

For over 30 years, the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling has relied on compassionate advocates, people like you, to respond to this important public health issue.

We have called on you to better equip all people affected - whether it is the person directly struggling with the gambling disorder, his or her family members, or the caring professionals that guide that individual to health and wellness, and you have answered!

The need for your involvement has never been more vital than it is now in Massachusetts. With the Commonwealth prepping for casinos and discussing Internet gambling, people are looking for answers and help. Because of you, the Council is the source they are turning to. You have had an incredible year!

Serving Those in Need -- *Your 2013 First Step to Change: a Gambling-Free Weekend Retreat* provided support to 20 individuals struggling with early problem gambling recovery. According to one participant, *"I enjoyed having the time and space to process my emotions-including hurt, loss, change, confusion, and fear. I feel I have a start now to move forward. I felt stuck before this weekend."* **In 2014, you can help to double our enrollment in this very effective, but expensive program, to meet the needs of more people looking for help and assistance.**

Addressing Clinical Gaps -- In 2013, you impacted the capacity for evidence-based treatment in Massachusetts. In the western part of the Commonwealth, 24 new clinicians are now trained to provide outpatient gambling disorder treatment in an area that previously had just two. **In 2014, you can help to address other geographic areas, such as Worcester and the Cape, where very little intervention and treatment resources exist to meet the demand.**

Advocating with Policy-Makers and Regulators -- By having a seat at the table, we share your concerns and influence change for people experiencing problems with gambling and their loved ones. According to Massachusetts Gaming Commission Chairman, Stephen P. Crosby, *"From almost the moment the MGC first convened, we have relied on the expertise and spirit of collaboration that the Council has provided for our critical work in the area of problem gambling."* **In 2014, you can help to affect similar change in other areas of state government: mental health, public safety, and after-incarceration services.**

You have made a difference in the lives of people experiencing problems with gambling. Are you ready to do it again? Please send in what you are able to contribute to make the difference that you want to make. *Would you consider \$30 in recognition of the 30 years we've been making a difference together?*

Sincerely,

Marlene D. Warner
Executive Director

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